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Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
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TAGS: ENRG, OECD, JA

SUBJECT: IEA - CHAIRMANSHIP OF GOVERNING BOARD
-
REF: TOKYO 18444

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1. YOU SHOULD USE FOLLOWING AS GUIDANCE IN REPLYING TO INQUIRY BY KAYA CONCERNING US VIEWS ON SUCCESSOR FOR DAVIGNON AS IEA GOVERNING BOARD CHAIRMAN.

2. DAVIGNON HAS BEEN CHOSEN AS MEMBER OF NEW EC COMMISSION. WE HAD EARLIER HOPED DAVIGNON WOULD BE WILLING TO CONTINUE IN THE IEA SLOT FOR AN INTERIM PERIOD OF PERHAPS SIX MONTHS TO COMPLETE THE REDUCED DEPENDENCE EXERCISE JUST LAUNCHED. HOWEVER, HE HAS NOW INDICATED THAT IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM, AS A COMMISSIONER, TO CONTINUE IN THE IEA.

3. THUS FAR, FOUR INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN MENTIONED AS POSSIBLE CANDIDATES: (1) TOWE OF CANADA; (2) ROWEDDER OF GERMANY; (3) ERSBOLL OF DENMARK (CURRENTLY DANISH PERM REP IN BRUSSELS BUT SCHEDULED TO GO BACK TO COPENHAGEN AS UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS); AND (4) RAMPTON OF THE UK. TOWE IS CURRENTLY VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNING BOARD AND THE ONLY DECLARED CANDIDATE, AS THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT

HAS ADVISED OTHER IEA MEMBERS THAT IT WOULD MAKE HIM AVAILABLE FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP IF HE IS SELECTED.

4. AT PRESENT, WE HAVE NO PREFERENCE AMONG THE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN MENTIONED. WE ARE LESS CONCERNED WITH THE NATIONALITY OF THE NEXT CHAIRMAN THAN WITH THE INDIVIDUAL HIMSELF. WE BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE IEA CONTINUE TO HAVE THE VIGOROUS AND EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED DAVIGNON'S CHAIRMAN-
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SHIP. WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THE NEXT CHAIRMAN SHOULD COMMAND GENERAL SUPPORT AND BE, IN EFFECT, A CONSENSUS CHOICE. THEREFORE, WE WANT TO CONSULT WIDELY ON AN INFORMAL BASIS WITH OTHER IEA MEMBERS.

5. THE IEA GOVERNING BOARD IS SCHEDULED TO MEET DECEMBER 20. WE UNDERSTAND THAT DAVIGNON MAY WISH TO SETTLE THE CHAIRMANSHIP AT THAT MEETING. WE OURSELVES DOUBT THAT THIS WOULD GIVE ADEQUATE TIME FOR THOROUGH BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS AND THAT A CONSENSUS CANDIDATE WILL HAVE EMERGED THAT SOON. THEREFORE, OUR PREFERENCE AT THIS POINT WOULD BE TO DEFER FINAL DECISION ON THE CHAIRMANSHIP ISSUE UNTIL THE FIRST GOVERNING BOARD MEETING IN 1977. WE WOULD HOPE THAT DAVIGNON WOULD NOT HAVE ANY DIFFICULTY IN STAYING ON AS CHAIRMAN UNTIL THE OPENING OF THE NEXT MEETING AT WHICH THE SELECTION OF HIS SUCCESSOR COULD BE THE FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA.
ROBINSON

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